

States to cover certain classes of individuals under the State-run Medicaid Program. Again, this runs counter to our effort to provide States with more flexibility—not less.

A similar amendment was offered by Senator PRYOR. His amendment would have extended existing Medicaid standards with regard to nursing home facilities. At the time of the vote, it was my understanding that the Senate leadership would offer a subsequent amendment addressing the concerns raised by the Senator from Arkansas. This amendment was offered and accepted, and it ensures that Federal nursing home standards remain the minimum protection level afforded to nursing home residents. Under this amendment, States may receive a waiver from Federal requirements, but only if the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that the State's regulations are as tough—or tougher—than Federal regulations. With the understanding that this amendment would be offered, I voted against the Pryor amendment.

Mr. President, another amendment worthy of note was the Kassebaum amendment to restore funding to the school loan program. I had an opportunity to address these issues first as a member of the Senate Labor Committee. At that time, we were confronted with the need to meet our reconciliation instructions by reducing the cost of the school loan program. While the committee met its instruction by choosing the most acceptable of undesirable alternatives, several of my colleagues and I promised to work to reduce the impact these cuts would have on students and their parents. The result of this effort was the Kassebaum amendment to strike provisions eliminating the 6-month grace period for student, imposing a loan fee on institutions, and increasing the interest rate on PLUS loans. This amendment effectively shielded college students from increased out-of-pocket costs, and I was pleased to see it adopted.

Senator BIDEN offered President Clinton's education tax credit proposal as an amendment to the bill. I voted against it because the reconciliation bill already includes a student loan tax credit of up to \$500 for middle-class families. Our plan also provides considerable additional relief to those families struggling to find enough resources in their limited family budget to cover the rising costs of college.

Senator BAUCUS offered an amendment to strike the ANWAR provisions of the bill. I support responsible, environmentally controlled efforts to explore and develop certain wilderness areas and, for that reason, I voted to table this amendment.

It is important to note that, on this issue, the State of Alaska and its citizens have spoken out. The Eskimos and Alaska's elected representatives recognize the potential benefits of development and support exploration of the region. The Inupiat Eskimos are the his-

toric residents of Alaska's North Slope; they are subsistence hunters who live off the land. Proceeds from oil production means good schools, medical services, and a better standard of living for them and their children.

Furthermore, responsible development of these oilfields is in Alaska's and the Nation's best interest. Alaska's current production facility at Prudhoe Bay, which provides more than 20 percent of domestic oil, is in decline. The State's revenues from oil are projected to fall from more than \$2 billion today to \$700 million in 2010. This could cause a grave fiscal crisis for Alaska. By contrast, if a commercial field is discovered projected Federal revenues could approach \$40 billion.

Finally, it should be noted that the Eskimos, who are dependent on the Caribou, fish, and other wildlife, believe that opening the refuge is compatible with their lifestyle and crucial to their survival.

For these reasons, I support the exploration of the coastal plain. I believe exploration can be done in a manner that protects the environment and also provides needed economic development.

A final tax matter which was addressed during debate was the Specter amendment supporting replacing the current Tax Code with a flat tax. As an extraneous matter, this amendment was subject to a point of order. I voted to sustain this point of order, but I want to emphasize that this vote should not be interpreted as opposition to the idea of the flat tax—but rather opposition to including it on this vehicle at this time. I agree with Senator SPECTER that our current Tax Code is too complex and inefficient and needs to be replaced, and I support investigating the benefits of all of the proposed reforms that have been put forward, including a flat tax.●

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION—1995

● Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I rise to pay a tribute to three individuals who were named the 1995 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii. These women, Gladys Ainoa Brandt, Carole Kai Onouye, Gretchen R. Neal, as well as Sibyl Nyborg Heide, the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii's 1995 Living Treasure, have impressive records of service to the community that more than justify this great honor. They are outstanding role models for young women in the State of Hawaii.

Gladys Ainoa Brandt, an outstanding educator and community volunteer, has committed herself to improving the quality of education in Hawaii. Ms. Brandt held a wide range of positions in the field of education, from classroom teaching to chairwoman of the University of Hawaii Board of Regents. She has exemplified the very best in public education.

Carole Kai Onouye, an inspirational champion of Hawaii's charities, devotes

herself to improving the quality of life in Hawaii. Ms. Onouye serves on the boards of the Variety School, the Girl Scout Council of Hawaii, the Great Aloha Run, and Hawaii Maritime Center, and the USO Golf Tournament.

Gretchen R. Neal is a dedicated health care provider. Ms. Neal, whose goal from childhood was to be a nurse, was the first female to enter the Health Services Administration masters program at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She has been actively involved with the Girl Scouts throughout her life.

Sibyl Nyborg Heide is an important benefactor in the local community. She, too, has been actively involved with the Girl Scouts throughout her life.

For all that they do for the community, and especially for young women, these four women deserve our respect and admiration.●

IMMIGRATION REFORM

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my Senate colleagues an important article prepared by Stuart Anderson and Steve Moore of the Cato Institute entitled "GOP Breaches of Contract." This piece explains why the immigration reform bill moving through the House violates the core principles of more freedom and less government that form the basis of the GOP's Contract With America. I would also like to highlight a recent statement signed by several business leaders on the need to maintain America's historic commitment to legal immigration. As we begin debate on immigration legislation here in the Senate, I would urge my colleagues to consider this information carefully. I ask that these materials be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Washington Times, Nov. 6, 1995]

GOP BREACHES OF 'CONTRACT'?

(By Stuart Anderson and Stephen Moore)

The "Contract With America" was not simply a list of 10 bills to be voted upon, but rather it represented the governing philosophy of the Republican Party. Unfortunately, the immigration bill recently voted out of the House Judiciary Committee, with unanimous Republican support, violates the four key precepts of the "Contract with America."

(1) Family values. The Contract states: "The American family is at the very heart of our society. It is through the family that we learn values like responsibility, morality, commitment, and faith." The House immigration bill, H.R. 2202, strikes at the heart of family unification by preventing brothers, sisters and nearly all adult children from joining their families here in the United States.

A guarantee to admit 25,000 eligible parents annually (half the current yearly total) was included in the bill, but only after an outside analysis confirmed that no parents could have immigrated if the bill had passed without amendment. But the bill contains a new obstacle for parents—only those who purchase nursing home and Medicare-comparable health insurance will be allowed to